



WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE
PO Box 700
Whiteriver, Arizona 85941

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Chadeen Palmer, Public Information Officer
928-338-4346 x 373 928-338-4767 Fax

Date: July 7, 2003 10:00 a.m.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

White Mountain Apache Tribe Wolf Release Is Successful

[Whiteriver, Arizona]— The first release of Mexican Gray Wolves on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation occurred on June 23, 2003. The pack was self-released from a soft-release mesh pen during the night hours. The pack consists of an Alpha pair and this year's pups. It is hoped that because of the young pups, the pack will localize and set up a permanent territory near the area where the release occurred. The pack, so far, is remaining within the chosen release area. This release came as a result of resolutions approved by the White Mountain Apache Tribal Council.

The official name of this pack is the "Hon-Dah Pack". The Hon-Dah Resort, Casino and Conference Center is sponsoring the pack through monetary and equipment donations to the Tribe's Mexican Wolf Program. The Wildlife and Outdoor Recreation Division is very pleased with the successful outcome of the present release and the Mexican Wolf Management Program under the direction of Krista Beazley, Tribal Wolf Biologist. The Mexican Wolf Program is part of the Tribe's nationally recognized Sensitive Species Program.

For further information concerning the wolf program or release please contact Krista Beazley, Tribal Wolf Biologist or Cynthia Dale, Tribal Sensitive Species Coordinator at (928) 338-4385.

###END###